

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTER
LOUIS MATTHEWS, ENGINE COM-
PANY NO. 26, NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the brief and fruitful life of Louis Matthews surely gives us an appreciation for what firefighters face and what we have lost. Seven years in the Department, only 29 years old, Firefighter Matthews spent his entire short but productive, adult life serving the people of the nation's capital, and finally gave his life for them.

Firefighters are known to be a breed apart and to have their own culture. That culture has developed from the fact that they are like no other civil servants. Not only do firefighters work together, they live together, and they await the possibility of injury or death together.

Two died in this fire, and two were seriously injured. One of the injured, Charles Redding, lived to attend both funerals. Joseph Morgan is very seriously injured and still in the hospital. Anthony Phillips was killed in the fire. Yes, they live and die together. Firefighters are very much like soldiers in a battalion ready and waiting for the next battle.

I know something of their culture. I am a proud member of a firefighter family. My grandfather, Lt. Richard Holmes, became a District of Columbia firefighter in 1902. I am still approached in the streets by people who remember him—he lived to be 96. I give some credit to the Fire Department for his physical and mental fitness and for the fact that he played a cutting game of badminton with his grandchildren in his 80's and 90's. And, I am grateful to the Department for giving me a picture of my grandfather standing in uniform as a part of Engine Company No. 4. As I have my memories of my grandfather, Firefighter Matthews family will cherish theirs.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW T. RUSSELL ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Matthew T. Russell, of Napoleon, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew has accepted his offer of appointment and will be attending the Naval Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our na-

tion's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

During his time at Napoleon High School, Matthew has attained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, which ranks him first in his class of one-hundred ninety-seven students. Matthew is a member of the National Honor Society and was selected for the Who's Who Among American High School Students and an All-American Scholar by the U.S. Achievement Academy.

Outside the classroom, Matthew has distinguished himself as an outstanding student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he is a varsity letter winner in soccer and football. During his junior season of football, Matthew was selected as a First Team All-District and Honorable Mention All-State place kicker. Among his other activities, Matthew is an active member in the St. Paul Lutheran Church, was a delegate to Buckeye Boys State, and, in February 1998, attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Matthew T. Russell. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Matthew will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy, and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

THE TWIN DANGERS OF INDIFFERENCE AND PARALYSIS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we hope and pray that the war in Kosovo will end within a few days, sooner rather than later. Slobodan Milosevic has been indicted as a war criminal and we look forward to a trial someday that will send a clear message to other similar sovereign predators throughout the world that genocide under any name will no longer be tolerated by the civilized world. Unfortunately there are many honorable Americans who do not see the actions of the Yugoslav regime as genocidal. They quibble about the numbers and imply that there are not enough victims. Certainly "ethnic cleansing" is not the same as Hitler's massive marches of victims into the gas chambers and the ovens. However, it is clear that only the intervention of the international community has saved thousands of humans driven from their homes from starvation and death by fatigue and cold. What if the refugees had all been left to survive on their own? What then would be the death count? In this year 1999 we have been presented with a clear challenge. Instead of waiting to mourn for the corpses, we have fought the savage

oppressors. Many mistakes have been made and we have demanded a more flexible and inclusive approach to leadership in this crisis. Minimizing "collateral damage" in this crusade against genocide is as important an objective as any other. But no concerns should fester into paralysis. Indifference is the greatest crime we might commit. Fear of taking risks could lead to a situation where we "just let the refugees naturally die."

LET THE REFUGEES DIE

Just let the refugees die
Don't hear their hungry children cry
Masked men treat families real mean
But no gas chambers on the scene
Bayonets pierce a few unruly eyes
But only NATO bombs
Force humans to flee like flies
Just let the refugees naturally die
High honors confer on them
Collect millions for a giant museum
Great poet muses will be fed
By memories of these pitiful dead
Editorials express awesome regret
We pledge never ever to forget
Just let the refugees naturally die
Their camps are not outrageously sad
Surplus U.S. food tastes not too bad
War crime standards must be high
Why make an international nuisance
Until millions undeservedly die
Tall tales insist Hitler has returned
But piles of bodies have not yet burned
Torched villages are carefully planned
But Auschwitz ovens are loudly banned
Sacred sovereignty you can not deny
Genocide is a bloody NATO lie
Homeless helpless savage rebels
Don't hear their hungry children cry
Just let the refugees naturally die.

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for many years Nigeria has been a symbol in international circles of mismanagement, corruption, drug trafficking, and dictatorship. It stood as one of the world's pariah nations. Nigeria is a country of more than 100 million people and abundant natural resources, which should make it leader on the African continent and the world stage. It has been prevented from taking its rightful role because of poor political leadership. In 1993, a democratic election was annulled and once again military dictatorship prevailed.

Now, however, it appears the tide may have turned. On May 29th of this year, President Olusegun Obasanjo was inaugurated after his victory in democratically-held national elections. This is a moment of truth for Nigeria. Obasanjo faces several tremendous challenges. He must build up democratic institutions in a country that has had precious little experience with them. He must overcome serious economic problems. And, he must repair Nigeria's negative international image. Nigeria

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